fault of the Government or of the Head of the Department, but it is the fault of the local Medical Officer, and if you put in complaints against the individual officers concerned they will be enquired into.

A midwifery class is being now conducted in Quilon, and 13 women are receiving instruction in that school. In the Women and Children's Hospital, Trivandrum, 12 women are being trained as nurses. Thus, in the two institutions together, 25 women are receiving instruction in medical aid. A number of midwives who have already received the requisite training have been posted to various hospitals.

Your suggestion to have a Medical Board in each important station composed mostly of non-officials seems good and the Government will take it up for consideration. As regards a dispensary at Kadapra, there is a hospital at Tiruvalla which is only 6 miles from the place. The Darbar Physician will, however, inspect the private dispensary at Kadapra and the question of giving a grant to it will be considered on receipt of his report.

108. Certain suggestions for popularising the Ayurveda system of treatment.

Mr. K. P. Martandan Vaidyan (Member, Chirayinkil Taluk) said that, of the three agencies of Government to safeguard the general health of the people, the youngest organisation was the Department of Ayurveda. It had at present under its management and control one Ayurveda College, one Ayurvedic Hospital and Dispensary, one Pharmacy, 72 grant-in-aid Dispensaries, 9 *Visha Vaidyasalas* and 2 grant-in-aid Ayurvedic schools. He then gave statistics in regard to the number of patients treated by the Department and the cost of maintaining the same and observed that the Ayurveda Department cost the State only one-sixteenth of the money spent on the Medical Department. The general public had assuredly greater faith in the efficacy of the Ayurvedic system than on the allopathic method of treatment. He then compared the increase of expenditure incurred on the two Departments in the years 1095 and 1096 and stated that the sum expended on the Ayurveda Department was negligible, though the total number of patients benefited by that Department was, by no means, small. In spite of the poor expenditure on the Ayurveda Department, a great deal of reform had been carried out in the Ayurveda College and in the Department generally with a view to render it more useful to the people. He had no doubt that the financial policy of the Government in regard to this useful Department was niggardly and his request was that a more liberal policy might be adopted in future.

In speaking of the Ayurveda College, the Member opined that no improvements worth the name had been introduced in the system of teaching or management of the institution. His proposal was that arrangements be made for giving the students a practical training in anatomy, with facilities for conducting *post mortem* examinations and for the dissection of dead bodies and for the appointment of teachers in the Ayurveda College being made by a Board and not by a single individual. This Board might also be utilised in connection with the revision of the curricula of studies and the conduct of annual examinations. He then dwelt on the necessity of increasing grants-in-aid to the Vaidyasalas and submitted that the sum at present sanctioned was so small as to lower the recipients in the estimation of the public, especially in view of the liberal amounts given to the subordinate servants of the Medical Department. The next point dealt with by the Member was the condition of the present Vaidyasalas. The suggestion of the Member was that all the existing Vaidyasalas might be abolished and that one Vaidyasala on the model of the Hospital and Dispensary at the capital might be opened in each taluk, presided over by a competent Vaidyan, the required medicines being supplied from the central Pharmacy at the capital. The Member further suggested that it be ordered that the Vaidyan should spend his time in affording medical relief and not in clerical work as was the case in the Medical Department. The pay of these Vaidyans should correspond to that of the officers in charge of Government veterinary institutions at least. The Member then suggested that the Director of Ayurveda should run a journal with a view to afford the men in the Department up-to-date information and knowledge on matters connected with the profession. From the list of grant-in-aid Vaidyans it could be seen that very few Ezhavas secured Government grants, and the Member urged that, in

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view of their proficiency in the practice of the Ayurvedic system of treatment, a larger number of them should be employed in the Department.

Dewan's reply.—I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by comparing the expenditure on the Ayurvedic system of treatment with that on the allopathic system, since a departmental agency for the former is far more recent than for the latter. Government ordinarily sanction whatever is recommended by the Director, who is the expert advisor to the Government in his Department. The Director assures the Government that the curriculum of studies in the Ayurveda College is suitable and that all the necessary courses have been provided in the institution, and that the only subject that yet remains to be introduced is the teaching of poison cure (*Vishavaidyam*). The suggestions of the Member will be forwarded to the Director for his consideration.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-30 P. M.

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